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**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR  
COMMUNICATING AN OPTIMIZED REPLY**

**Abstract Of The Disclosure**

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For optimized reply, when sending a reply (902) in a first embodiment a remote communication unit's controller (206) generates a delta between a preceding message and the reply message, and forms an optimized reply (904) using the delta and an identifier of the preceding message. On receiving the optimized reply, the communication server uses the data unit identifier to retrieve (910) the preceding message from a further server (e.g., the post office mailbox of the user associated with the remote unit), reconstructs (914) the full reply from the retrieved message and the delta, and forwards (916) the full reply to the addressee. When receiving a reply for the remote unit (918), an index is preferably maintained by both units of mail stored at the remote unit. From this index a preceding message forming part of the reply is identified (920). An optimized reply is then similarly formed (922) and sent to the remote unit.